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AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

for the

YEAR 1960

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

A.R. DARLOW, T.D., M.B., B.S.,
D.P.H., D.C.H., D.T.M. & H.
Medical Officer of Health

J.P. MEARS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector.

TO: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,

AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the health, vital statistics and sanitary condition of the Ampthill Urban District for the year 1960.

The vital statistics are satisfactory, but it should be borne in mind that we are dealing with very small numbers and no great reliance can be placed on the difference from the national figures either way.

The same remark is applicable to the incidence of infectious disease. There is an apparent rise in tuberculosis, which is general throughout the county. The position has been examined and it is possible that the apparent rise has occurred purely by chance. The situation is being watched very carefully.

During the year, work commenced on the contract to extend the sewage disposal works. This is discussed in the text.

In conclusion, I would like to say what a pleasure it was to join your staff. I am grateful to Mr. Mears who has been responsible for most of this report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A.R. DARLOW,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1961.

AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for 1960

1. OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health - A.R. DARLOW, T.D., M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.T.M. & H.

Surveyor, Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager - J.P. MEARS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Water Engineer - R.W. COLLISON, A.Inst.W.E.

2. GENERAL STATISTICS RELATING TO THE DISTRICT

Area	Acres, 1,904
Population -	
Census for 1961 -	3,854
Registrar General's estimate of home population, mid year, 1960 -	3,650
Number of inhabited houses	1,259
Rateable Value	£ 40,185.
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£ 163. 16. 2d.

3. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Ampthill is in the southern half of the County and is approximately midway between Bedford and Luton. The town is placed on high ground, but pleasantly screened by well wooded countryside to two elevations; the district is situated in a part of the County noted for its fine woodlands and scenery, and Ampthill itself is well know for its buildings of architectural interest.

Ampthill Station has now been closed to passenger and goods traffic, the nearest railway station now being situated at Flitwick, about two miles distant. The United Counties Omnibus Company operate in this area and surrounding district.

The district is mainly residential with a few light industries, including a laundry, agricultural and motor engineering and a firm of refrigeration engineers.

During the year the erection of eight aged persons bungalows was proceeded with at The Poplars, off Saunders Piece, but serious delays were caused due to the long delivery period for bricks.

Private development continued on the Cedar Close, Glebe Road and Ampthill House Estates, and planning consents were granted for the erection of dwellings on individual plots, besides 'outline approvals' for the development of further land. During the year 32 private dwellings were completed.

Many of the inhabitants travel daily to Luton and Bedford for their employment, particularly in the factories there, but others are employed at Messrs. J.R. Ferguson's factory and the brickworks, which are quite nearby. The remainder are engaged in farming, market gardening and other employment consistent with a small town of this size.

Ampthill Park provides facilities for cricket, tennis, hockey, fishing and a small putting green is provided in an area set aside for recreation, where other children's playground equipment is established. Other sporting and social activities are provided by the Bowls Club, Rugby, Tennis, Badminton and Netball Clubs; Choral and Dramatic Societies and the Ampthill Town Band, and mainly for the younger people Scouts and Youth organisations.

4. VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	36	33	69
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Total	37	33	70

Crude Birth Rate 19.2 per 1,000 home population
Comparable Birth Rate 18.8 " " " "
(The comparability factor for the district being 0.98)
As compared with -
Average of last 5 years 15.4 per 1,000 home population
Rate for Bedfordshire 20.3 " " " "
Rate for England and Wales 17.1 " " " "

Still Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	-	2	2

Still birth Rate 27.8 per 1,000 live and still births
As compared with -
Average of last 5 years 19.4 per 1,000 live & still births
Rate for Bedfordshire 18.7 " " " " " "
Rate for England and Wales 19.7 " " " " " "

Deaths	Males	Females	Total
Deaths in the District	22	19	41
Transferred into District	6	3	9
Transferred from District	1	-	1
Total	27	22	49

Crude Death Rate 13.4 per 1000 home population
Comparable Death Rate 10.7 " " " "
(The comparability factor for the district being 0.80)
As compared with -
Average of last 5 years 13.1 per 1000 home population
Rate for Bedfordshire 10.8 " " " "
Rate for England and Wales 11.5 " " " "

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	1	-	1

Infant Mortality Rate 14.3 per 1,000 related live births.
As compared with -
Average of last 5 years 11.8 per 1000 related live births
Rate for Bedfordshire 19.5 " " " " "
Rate for England and Wales 21.7 " " " " "

Deaths Connected with Childbirth

Maternal Mortality NIL per 1000 live and still births

As compared with -
Average of last 5 years 3.9 per 1000 live births
Rate for Bedfordshire 0.53 " " " "
Rate for England and Wales 0.39 " " " "

PRINCIPLE CAUSES OF DEATH

	CAUSES	Under 15 years		15 -65 years		Over 65 years		Total	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1.	Tuberculosis Respiratory							-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other							-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease							-	-
4.	Diptheria							-	-
5.	Whooping Cough							-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections							-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis							-	-
8.	Measles							-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases							-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach							-	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus					2		2	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast							-	-
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus				1			-	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms			3			5	3	5
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia							-	-
16.	Diabetes							-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous sytem			1		2	5	3	5
18.	Coronary disease, angina			2		2	5	4	5
19.	Hypertension with heart disease						2	-	2
20.	Other heart disease					1	2	1	2
21.	Other circulatory disease					2	1	2	1
22.	Influenza							-	-
23.	Pneumonia							-	-
24.	Bronchitis			1		5		6	-
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system							-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum							-	-
27.	Gastrities, enterities and diarrhoea							-	-
28.	Nephrities and nephrosis							-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostrate							-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion							-	-
31.	Congenital malformations							-	-
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases			4			1	5	1
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1		1				1	-
34.	All other accidents							-	-
35.	Suicide							-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war							-	-
	TOTALS	1	-	12	1	14	21	27	22

CAUSE OF DEATH IN INFANTS -

Congenital abnormality - 1

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5. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA

Provided by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

General Hospitals

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing, Kempston Road, Bedford.
Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
The Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Luton.
St. Mary's Hospital, Luton.

Infectious Disease Hospitals

Spittlesea Isolation Hospital, Spittlesea, Near Luton.

Chest Clinics (For Pulmonary Tuberculosis)

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
St. Mary's Hospital, Luton.

Venereal Disease Clinics

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing,
Wednesday 5 - 7 p.m. Friday 3 - 5 p.m.
Luton and Dunstable Hospital -
Monday to Friday 9.0 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Saturday 9.0 a.m. to 12 noon.

Provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service

Bacteriological Laboratory

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
Public Health Laboratory, Lewsey Road, Luton.

Provided by the Bedfordshire County Council.

(a) Ambulance Service

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the demands that are occurring. It covers the full twenty-four hours, and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulance and sitting-case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospitals and Clinics at which attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other Authorised Person. This should be to the nearest depot.

The Service also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

Depots are situated as follows -

Ampthill, 14 Dunstable Street	Tel: Ampthill	3333
Bedford, Bedford Road, Kempston	Bedford	5335
Biggleswade, Crab Lane	Biggleswade	2295
Dunstable, High Street North	Dunstable	62761
Luton, Leicester Road	Luton	52600 & 51871
Linslade, Bucks. County Council, 10 New Road Leighton Buzzard.	Leighton Buzzard	3332

(b) Domiciliary Nursing and Midwifery Service

Administered by the Northern Divisional Health Committee.

The Nurse employed is -

Mrs. L.E. Stockbridge, S.R.N., S.C.M., 11 Arthur Street, Ampthill.
Telephone Ampthill 2261
Mr. K.F. Cripps, S.R.N., 19 Arthur Street, Ampthill.
Telephone Ampthill 3248.

(c) Health Visiting Service

Miss E.V. Maberly, 14b Linden Road, Bedford.

(d) Home Help Service

Organiser - Mrs. van Berckelaer, 3 St. Peter's Street, Bedford.

(e) Child Welfare Centre

1 Dunstable Street, Ampthill - Fridays 2.0 p.m.

(f) Ante-Natal Clinic

1 Dunstable Street, Ampthill - Alternat Fridays, 10.0 a.m.

6. SCHOOLS

With the opening of the new Secondary Modern School at Ampthill the schools were re-organised and one school closed, only one primary school remains in the district.

7. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(a) Water Supply

The Ampthill Urban District Council's Waterworks, situated at Clophill has three boreholes sunk into the greensand, which supply the whole of the Urban District.

The water is treated for hardness with Hydrated Lime, flows through sedimentation tanks, filtered and treated with chlorine, then passed into the pumping and distribution mains.

Daily tests are carried out for hardness and residual chlorine, and at monthly intervals bacteriological examinations are made of samples taken from various points in the area of supply. In addition, periodical chemical analyses are made of the raw and treated water, and it is satisfactory to note that both the bacteriological and the chemical examinations have revealed a high standard of purity.

The water as passed into supply is slightly hard, averaging 17.1 parts per 100,000. It has no plumbo-solvent action.

Number of houses supplied from public mains in Ampthill - 1259
Population in Ampthill supplied from public water mains - 3650
(a) Direct to houses - 1243
(b) By means of private standpipes - 16

TYPICAL RESULT OF CHEMICAL EXAMINATION
OF SAMPLE OF TREATED WATER

Parts per million:

Nitrogen, ammoniacal	0.066
" albuminoid	0.068
" Nitrous	none
" Nitric	1.24
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes	0.10
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	0.20
Hardness, temporary	165.00
Hardness, permanent	117.00
Iron	0.42

(b) Drainage and Sewerage

The Sewage Disposal Works are sited at Abbey Lane and consist of the following - Detritus and Sedimentation tanks, rotary percolating filters, humus tanks, storm water overflows and sludge lagoons. The treated effluent discharges into the Running Waters Brook, which enters the River Flitt. During the year work commenced on the Contract to extend the Sewage Disposal Works. The provision of an additional sedimentation tank, rotary percolating filters, new humus tanks and sludge beds and ancillary pumping equipment should improve the efficiency of the plant and effluent.

(c) Rivers and Streams

No complaints of pollution were received.

(d) Closet Accommodation

The majority of the premises in the town have water carriage systems, but 52 houses with no sewer available are connected to cesspools or septic tank installations. Six dwellings (isolated farm dwellings and cottages) have only pail closets.

(e) Public Cleansing

The disposal and collection of house refuse continues satisfactorily. The Karrier Bantam 7 cu. yd. side loading vehicle has been operating very efficiently, no major expenses having been incurred on maintenance. A complete weekly service is given to all premises, except for one or two isolated farm dwellings, who are catered for at fortnightly intervals. Disposal continues at the Bedford Road Tip. The tip and adjoining area is regularly treated for infestation of rats, mice, flies, crickets and other pests.

The Council do not operate a cesspool cleansing service, the occupiers of premises drained to cesspools make their own private arrangements.

(f) Salvage

During the year 9 tons 5 cwt. of waste paper was collected and sold, which realised a sum of £41. 13. 7d. The main bulk of the salvage was derived from business premises, but collections were made from householders in the district by the refuse collectors.

(g) Sanitary Inspection of Area

The following is a summary of the sanitary and other defects dealt with during the year -

Premises with defective and insanitary closets	4
" " insufficient sanitary accommodation	-
" " insanitary and defectice drains	11
" " insanitary and defective cesspools	2
" " defective windows, insufficient light and ventilation	2
" " defective floors	2
Dirty premises	-
Dangerous structure	1
Accumulations of offensive matter	-
Unsound meat and other foods	20
Rooms disinfested after infectious disease	-
" " for bed bugs etc.	-
Nuisance from rats and mice	18
Other dilapidations	-
Number of Statutory notices served	1
Number of Informal notices served	21
Number of defective premises	11

(h) Shops and Offices

These establishments were inspected at intervals and were all found to be generally satisfactory, no formal action being necessary.

(i) Camping Sites

There are no camping sites within the Urban District, and no caravans or moveable dwellings were situated in the district during the year, which required licencing.

(j) Smoke Abatement

No complaints of smoke nuisance were received during the year.

(k) Disinfestation

No treatment was necessary.

8. HOUSING

No Council accommodation was completed during the year, but the erection of 8 Aged persons bungalows were nearing completion at the year end. 32 private dwellings were completed and occupied, the bulk of these being on private residential estates, namely Cedar Close, Verne Drive, Glebe Road Estates and Station Road.

The following plans were approved under Building Byelaws -

61 houses and bungalows	3 Garages- Council
35 alterations to domestic premises	43 Garages - lockups
12 alterations to business premises	20 Garages - Private
1 conversion of cinema to warehouse, offices etc.	1 Council Office.

Town and Country Planning

98 applications under the Town and Country Planning Act were received, of which 69 were approved, 12 refused and 17 withdrawn.

Rodent Control

A trained operator has been employed to carry out the destruction of rodents, make surveys etc., and take such steps as to keep infestation down to a minimum. Regular treatments were carried out at the Refuse ip and Sewage Works, and domestic and business premises were attended to as and when required. Regular surveys of ditches and streams in the district generally were carried out and the necessary treatment given. Tests of the Sewerage system were carried out in accordance with Ministry instructions.

9. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Number of premises handling food and visits made thereto -

		Premises	Visits Made
(a)	Shops		
	1. Ice Cream Vendors	15	36
	2. Bakers and confectioners	5	15
	3. Grocers	4	12
	4. Fishmongers	1	7
	5. General Stores	8	30
	6. Butchers	5	20
	7. Dairies and Retail milk distributors	2	6
(b)	Vans, Stalls and Hawkers	5	16
(c)	Catering Establishments		
	1. Restaurants and Cafes	3	11
	2. Industrial Canteens	-	-
	3. School Canteens	2	2
	4. Hotels	1	4
	5. Outside catering contractors	2	3
	6. Fish and chip shops	1	7
	7. Others	-	-
(d)	Manufacturing Establishments		
	1. Sausage Makers	5	20
	2. Meat pie and cooked meat makers	5	20
	3. Bakehouses	1	5
	4. Ice Cream Makers	1	4
	5. Confectionery Manufacturers	-	-
	6. Others	-	-

(e) Milk Supply (Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949)
Milk (Special Designation)Regulations 1949-54

Regular inspections have been carried out of the two retailer's premises which were found to be satisfactory. Three dairies situated outside the district retail designated milk within the Urban area. Licences were issued in accordance with the above regulations and the necessary registrations made.

(f) Unfit Foods

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption -

73 lbs Beef	57 lbs tinned food and groceries
74 lbs Mutton	70 lbs Fish.

Tinned food and groceries which are usually condemned in small quantities are collected and buried at the Council's Refuse Tip. Condemned meat at the slaughterhouses is always stained with Condemned Meat Dye before collection by processing firms.

(g) Butchers Shops (all registered under s.16 Food &Drugs Act, 1955)

The five butchers' shops have been regularly inspected and are maintained in a good condition, all complying with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

(h) Bakehouses

The one bakehouse in the district is maintained in a reasonable condition.

(i) Ice Cream Registration - under s.16 Food & Drugs Act, 1955 and Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947-52

Fifteen premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, all of which sell a pre, acked article, except for one where a 'cold-mix' is manufactured and sold. No samples were taken during the year by this department.

(j) Slaughtering Arrangements

During the year both slaughterhouse licences lapsed, the premises not being suitable for use with the introduction of the new Construction regulations. There are now no slaughtering facilities within the Urban district.

(k) Food Hygiene Regulations 1955-56

All premises now comply with regard to structural standards, and regular inspections were carried out to ensure the regulations were being complied with.

Meat Inspection

Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during 1960

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep &lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	81	-	2	103	21	-
Number inspected	81	-	2	103	21	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	3.7%	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	4.7%	-
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

10. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notification by Age Groups

Disease	0 - 5	5 - 15	Over 15	Total	Removed to Hospital
Whooping Cough	-	1		1	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	13	7	-	20	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-

Tuberculosis in Age Groups

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 65	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

Number on Register at End of Year

Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
M	F	M	F
13	8	1	4

Death Rates per 100,000 of the Population

This District	NIL
Bedfordshire	5.0
England and Wales	6.8

11. MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The unit did not visit the District during the year.

12. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Vaccination against anterior poliomyelitis, whooping cough and diptheria, is the responsibility of the County Council and has been carried out at child welfare clinics and in the schools.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis during the year.

Immunisation against tuberculosis by B.C.G. is offered to school leavers and is given in the schools.

Cleansing of Verminous Persons

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 85

Lice

No treatments were given under this Section this year.

The bulk of the cases which might call for treatment are in school children with lousy heads, who are always treated informally by the school nurse.

There is an arrangement with the Borough of Bedford to treat general infestations at Barkers Lane, Bedford at a cost of 30/- per treatment for adults and 17/6d. per treatment for children.

Modern treatment of scabies no longer necessitates cleansing under this Section.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	8	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	13	13	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * (excluding out-workers premises)	6	20	-	-
Total -	23	41	-	-

* Electrical Stations (Sections 103 (1)) Institutions Section 104 and sites of building operations and works of engineering construction (Sections 107 and 108)

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND
(if defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more 'cases').

Particulars	Number of cases		Defects to H.M. Inspector	Found by H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied			
Want of Cleanliness (s.1) Overcrowding (s.2) Unreasonable temperature(s.3) Inadequate ventilation (s.4) Ineffective Drainage of floors (s.6) Sanitary Conveniences (s.7) (a) Insufficient (b) Unsuitable or defective (c) Not separate for sexes Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to Outwork).	3	2			
Total -	3	2			

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK

Sections 110 & 111)

	Section 110			Section 111		
Nature of work	No. of out workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel making etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-